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STUDENTS, STAFF THROW ‘CARNIVAL FOR A CURE’ AT 5K

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Township board sets hearings considering dispensary SLU conditions, revocations

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Township Board approved rescheduled hearings to consider SLU conditions and revocations for four adult use marijuana retail establishments in the township at their Monday, May 18, meeting.

Board members approved the following rescheduled hearings, which were originally scheduled for March, to 5 p.m. Monday, June 22: Marijuana Establishment CRA/SLU Violations – Mint Cannabis; Marijuana Establishment CRA/SLU Violations – Trapstars Outlet; Marijuana Establishment CRA/SLU Violations – Refine New Buffalo and Marijuana Establishment CRA/SLU Violations – The Plug New Buffalo.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that the hearings are about "zoning" and that the township isn't "adopting something new" regarding the dispensaries.

"This is to consider the violations, to consider their conditions to the special land use for possible revocation," she said.

Later in the meeting, board members granted a six-week extension of preliminary approval of an SLU to 19325 US HWY 12 LLC at 19325 U.S. Highway 12 as well as final approval of an SLU to Grand Ave Retail LLC to operate an adult use marijuana retail establishment at 19511 U.S. Highway 12.

Berrien County Road Department Managing Director Mark Heyliger gave an update on Harbor Country Drive.

Originally, he said the road was identified as a 2026 project, adding that it was put out for bid and the project came back at "roughly $200,000." Based on the disruption with funding from the state due to the new budget that was passed last year, the road department has had to cancel all primary projects throughout the county "in an effort to ensure the road department remains on sound financial footing."

"With the new funding mechanism and the way they're funding us - the level we experienced last year that we based our budget off of is about almost a million dollars shy from where we were last year this very same time and we're about $2.1 million off the projections of where we thought we would be based on MDOT and the treasury told us the county would be receiving," Heyliger said.

The township usually pays for secondary roads, and the county pays for primary ones. Heyliger said the road department has a township match program, where the road department transfers $1.5 million out of the primary road fund and then splits that among the 22 townships in the county.

"Then we do projects in agreement with the township up to that matching dollar amount or beyond, if they so desire," Heyliger said.

He said he had staff from the road department "pothole patch" the road. He's also been in contact with the contractor who won the bid, who has agreed to still do the project should the money become available if Heyliger contacted him by the first week of August. If not, the project will be revert to 2027.

Board members approved a change order of $43,267.10 to BG Construction for flag stabilization, wall modifications, irrigation adjustments, culvert addition and additional drainage items as well as the sixth pay application $122,245.41 for Tribute Plaza.

Jason Marquardt, senior project engineer at Abonmarche, said that it's anticipated that the contractor will be doing some of the decorative amenities and a lot of electrical work is scheduled to take place within the next couple of weeks, with the flagpoles arriving soon. The artist also plans to put up the new globe structure in the center and monuments on the mall in the last week before the ribbon-cutting, which is anticipated to be 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 16. Landscaping will also be in probably after Memorial Day, Marquardt said.

An invoice from the Bill Deputy Foundation for $84,166.66 for the final payment for Pleasure Isel Marina was approved.

Board members approved applying for a State of Michigan fire equipment grant to the state for a hose, nozzles and a Rapid Attack Portable Monitor for $49,138.29.

Resolutions were adopted recognizing the clean-up efforts on Earth Day to the following establishments: Flourish Books and Plants, Whittaker Woods, Supergood, Elevated Exotics, Flowerbowl, Harbor Country Rolloff and King of Budz.

Board members adopted a resolution to hold a public hearing at 5 p.m. June 15 to extend the Corridor Improvement Authority for an additional 10 years. Heit said they adopted a resolution last month with the hopes to hold it this month but had to reschedule it due to realizing the map is slightly larger than was thought.

The second pay application from Oselka Construction for $10,535.50 for the bulk water fill station was approved.

Board members adopted a resolution that states the City of New Buffalo, and the township will hold joint Board of Review sessions.

In the South of France "Bonjour" is required before conversation can begin.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
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VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

City council oks budget

BY THERESE DONNELLY

As the current fiscal year comes to an end, the New Buffalo City Council held public meetings during the May 18 regular meeting to approve plans for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Local governments are required to hold a truth-in-taxation public hearing before adopting a budget or approve levies on property tax. The council held a public hearing before adopting new millage rates based on recommendations presented by City Manager Darwin Watson.

The new rates are 9.2944 mills for operational purposes, 0.4180 for parks, 0.2271 for streets/roads under the 2020 millage, and 2.1978 for the 2024 millage, for the 2027 tax year.

The council also adopted the city's 2026-2027 budget, which was discussed and planned during a workshop and public hearing prior to the approval.

Watson outlined the budget, explaining there are some planned deficits due to upcoming city projects, including the broadside dock and bridge to the public beach, but said the funds had been accumulated over previous years.

During public comment, resident Kathy Kochs asked if the police staff budget would be better utilized towards other city expenditures. She said she supported the police but felt the current staff was too large, noting the New Buffalo Township department is much smaller.

Watson said the police expenses are a separate budget item and does not take from other operating funds. He added that comparing the city and township departments was like comparing "apples to grapes." He explained city officers handle many duties not covered by township officers, including code enforcement and wellness checks. He added city officers have much more interaction with residents outside of dispatches.

The council approved new water and sewer rates, effective July 1, 2026. Rates are determined by meter size.

During the meeting, the council recognized members of the New Buffalo Police Department who have served a "substantial amount of time" in the department. He said nine officers have worked for the city for more than five years each.

Mayor Vance Price thanked the officers and said he sees many of them interacting positively with students at New Buffalo Area Schools where he is a teacher.

At the council's March meeting, they discussed actions to remove Roxanne Rau from the Planning Commission. Rau had three consecutive unexcused absences from Planning Commission meetings. City ordinances allow the council to move to remove a board member after such an absence.

At the May meeting, the council voted to formally approve Rau's removal. In a separate action, they voted to appoint Christopher Thun to fill the term, which ends in May 2027.

In a move aimed at improving efficiency, the council approved the formation of a Joint Board of Review with New Buffalo Township. Watson said the two municipalities employ the same assessor and holding joint reviews will allow fewer hearings.

The council approved a hawking and peddling permit request for Brisket Brisket Jr to operate a food truck at 5 W Madison Street on June 5. Owner Rufino Gayton, Jr. explained he is partnering with Stella Beauty for the event and is "open to" expanding to other days.

While the council has denied some food trucks in order to support local restaurants, Councilmember Mark Robertson noted this would be away from the downtown and on private property.

Based on the Planning Commission's recommendation, the council approved a site plan for 109 and 115 N Barton Street, with conditions.

Owner Matthew Shanley has presented plans for a hotel adjacent to The Neighborhood Hotel on Merchant Street. The conditional approval requires the two lots to be combined into a single parcel, all landscaping to comply with landscaping and maintenance requirements, all signage to be subject to the city's sign permit process, all driveways be permitted and approval of the utility connections and drainage by the city engineer.

The council also approved a special use permit for a short-term rental at 326 S. Whittaker Street, and a site plan for a single-family dwelling at 1337 Shore Drive.

A request for temporary rezoning at 107 N. Whittaker to use the vacant lot as a temporary parking lot was denied. Price said the city is initiating a paid parking plan and shuttle service and he doesn't feel the additional lot is needed.

Watson reported to the council that police vehicles have ongoing mechanical and electrical issues that have made them unreliable. He recommended the council approve

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.
— Cicero

the purchase of two new vehicles to replace these. The council approved the purchase of a 2026 Dodge Durango for $51,339.91, including all necessary equipment, and the order for a second vehicle for a second vehicle at the same price, in order to secure current rates.

Additionally, the council approved the $37,657 purchase of a mobile command trailer for police to use at city events where officers on foot or ATV patrol would otherwise need to return to the station to process paperwork or take breaks. Killips said the trailer would primarily be used near the public beach, giving officers a climate-controlled place without having to leave a crowded area.

The council approved a motion to make a contribution to the New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority's grant project for improvements at Oselka Park. Watson said the city would request reimbursement from the Pokagon Fund Municipal Allocation and a DNR grant after the project.

Plummer's Environmental Inc. received the contract to clean and televise the storm sewer system. Watson said the $417,958 bid was reviewed by city staff and city engineers.

Arnt Asphalt will sealcoat the parking lot at Oselka Park for $8,725. Watson called the work 'overdue.'

Board members from the Harbor Country Museum of Rail + History (formerly the New Buffalo Railroad Museum) addressed the council to request the council approve a municipal allocation request from the Pokagon Fund to help the museum build a new display space for the city's historic fire pumper.

During the Chicago Fire of 1871, officials sent telegraph messages asking for assistance fighting the flames. New Buffalo loaded its fire pumper onto a westbound train. The pumper later returned to New Buffalo and has been on display at different locations throughout the city, including at the museum.

Speaking on behalf of the museum, Board President Todd Van Buskirk explained the planned addition would allow visitors to view the pump year-round in a protected, climate-controlled display.

Councilmembers expressed hesitation at the $310,926 cost, noting the city has several projects coming up. While the allocation funds are separate from the dock and bridge funds, Price said the city can still tap into the municipal allocation funds if needed.

Museum Secretary Katha Kissman explained the plans include a barn-style door to allow the pump to be taken out for city events. She said the allocation funds would serve as a "lead gift", giving the museum a base when trying to raise funds from public donations and grants.

Councilmember Rich Knoll said he is also on the museum board and confirmed with Watson he could speak and vote on the issue. He noted the museum is dedicated to preserving local history

"Once we let it go, it's gone," he said.

The council did not approve the request but urged the board to look for other funding opportunities.

Kissman said the museum is also seeking grants to renovate its basement and display artifacts from the former Wilkinson Musuem, which housed items from early settlers in present-day Lakeside.

The council did approve a temporary moratorium on data centers. Many communities with data centers have experienced strains on resources such as electricity and water, leading local governments to consider moratoriums and bans on new centers.

Before the meeting adjourned, Watson congratulated the officers who received recognition for their years of service, and said the Exit 1 Events' Home and Garden Show on May 16 was well attended.

Driver badly hurt when tree falls on vehicle

BY STAN MADDUX

A 37-year-old La Porte woman was severely injured when a large tree fell on the sport utility vehicle she was driving.

This happened just before 8 a.m. Monday on Fail Road just north of the La Porte city limits.

La Porte County Police said the woman was northbound when the tree along the west side of the road apparently was uprooted from winds measured by the National Weather Service at nearly 20 miles per hour at the time.

Among the emergency responders was Kankakee Township Volunteer Fire Department Capt. Zach Rosiuk, who said the tree landed on the hood of her 2012 GMC Acadia and blocked both lanes of travel.

He said the roof was also partially smashed in on the passenger side by the tree, which was lifted off the vehicle by a tow truck equipped with a boom.

Rosuik said emergency responders were then able to safely cut into the vehicle and free the woman from the wreckage without fear of the tree causing further damage and injury to the vehicle and patient.

"If there's any sudden movements, the tree could further crush or hurt someone on the scene like a firefighter or police officer," he said.

The woman was loaded into a medical helicopter that landed in a nearby field and flown to an undisclosed hospital in the area for advanced treatment.

Police did not release the name of the woman.

Her injuries were described by police as severe, but no further light was shed on her condition.

Rosiuk said the heavily damaged vehicle was pulled out from underneath the tree, which was then lowered to the ground and cut into pieces by crews with the La Porte County Highway Department.

La Porte County Commissioner Steve Holfield said he was notified right away by the highway department about the accident.

"My prayers and wishes go out to her and her family that she recovers well," he said.

Holifield, a farmer from the Mill Creek area, said the ground may have been softened enough from a wet spring to allow the winds to uproot the tree.

"It's just unfortunate this lady was in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said.

Badayah Brazelton said he felt fortunate the tree didn't fall on him because he drives that stretch of Fail Road practically every morning about that time on his way home to Michigan City from La Porte.

He was running about five minutes behind his normal schedule when he pulled up close to the vehicle with the tree on top of it.

"I was praying for the people that it happened to," he said.

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Chikaming Township Board adopts one-year data center moratorium

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Chikaming Township Board of Trustees adopted a resolution that places a temporary, one-year moratorium on data centers in the township at their Thursday, May 14, meeting.

The resolution states that the moratorium will be in effect for one year "or until any amended or new township ordinances or regulations addressing data centers are effective, whichever date comes first."

Noting all the "questions" surrounding data centers, Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte said he feels it'd be "prudent of us to get ahead of it to the best of our abilities at this point in time."

Per their attorney, Bunte said that they can extend it if necessary.

"I've not talked to a single individual, to date, regarding this that it's a fit for Chikaming Township - it may be a fit for other communities, it's a purpose and reason for them and that's all well and good but for our township and everything we offer and the resources it makes me a little uncomfortable to think they could come in and utilize those resources for that benefit," he said, adding that's his personal opinion.

The resolution also directs the Planning Commission to study the "public health, safety and welfare concerns" regarding data centers and "develop and recommend needed zoning ordinance amendments, including a temporary zoning ordinance moratorium on data centers, to the township board," which would involve public input.

Trustee Arthur Anderson said that data centers can't be banned "because it's exclusionary under the zoning laws and you can't exclude data centers, you can only regulate them."

Don Lenderman said that a moratorium is necessary to "study the impact on infrastructure," adding that the Planning Commission emphasized the stress a center would place on the township's waterworks.

"It's also needed to allow us to ensure we are protecting our natural resources, that we have the capability to deliver power, energy, water to our citizens without the threat of overconsumption," he said.

Mary Hayes said that they have a "spectacular community" with "extraordinary resources," especially Lake Michigan and other water inland.

"These are potentially communities of other interests than ours coming in to extract our resources...There are people out there that are going to look at this community because we're smaller, we're rural, what are they going to think we know – or don't know," she said.

Board members approved amending Ordinance 126 to allow alcoholic beverages at township sanctioned events at public beaches, road end beaches, public parks and preserves in the township.

Drain commissioner George MacManus presented five upcoming township projects that have been petitioned that haven't been completed: Streed Drain, which is 85 percent complete and is expected to be closed up by summer 2027; Union Pier Drain, which construction should start on soon; Harbert Drain, which is also ready to begin, with the scope having been reduced and the cost being lowered; the Sawyer Drain and Tiffany Drain, which will be a smaller project.

Board members approved a request for additional funding from the township for the Lakeside Streetscape Landscaping plans from the Lakeside Association.

Sue Phelan, association president, said the request is with regards to soil replenishment, which will be necessary to ensure the plantings thrive, and an initial watering program in the first year.

The additional improvements will increase the township's portion of the project of $15,000, which has already been budgeted and has been matched by the association, to an additional $11,500, which would increase the township's portion to $26,500. Board members approved Anderson pursuing a state grant for an energy study on township hall, which would be the first step to getting a solar array.

A resolution stating the board's opposition to Michigan House Bills 5529-5532 and 5581-5585, which would modify the township's ability to adopt zoning ordinances and regulations on land development, was adopted.

Board members approved procedures, which would start to align communications with Chikaming Connect and Chikaming Alert, were approved.

Bunte said that Anderson, trustee Rich Sullivan and Phelan have been discussing the policies and procedures for the past few months. Alerts can be requested by Bunte or the Planning Commission chair, or by two or more board trustees or Planning Commission members after notifying Bunte or the Planning Commission chair of the request. All requesting parties will have the final sign off on communication content.

Two construction change orders regarding the Kohn Park Project were approved. Bunte said the first one, which is $79,222.50, is putting the gazebo, which had to be removed due in the initial bidding process because of the project's grant, "back into the mix." The second one for $28,463.05 is regarding the removal of concrete foundation and the concrete footing from the steel bench that had to be slightly downsized to cover some of the cost.

A resolution approving the township applying for a Safe Streets for All Planning and Demonstration Grant for Sawyer Road, which would be $1,800,000, was adopted.

Board members approved a fireworks application for July 3 (rain date July 4) at Chikaming Country Club and July 3 (rain date July 11) for Woodlawn Beach.

Board members approved the next board meeting for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 16.

A Town Hall meeting to discuss the community Master Plan will be from 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 28, at township hall.

Annexation clears way for data center expansion

BY STAN MADDUX

Close to 1,300 acres of farmland will be annexed into the city of La Porte for a second Microsoft data center.

The unanimous decision Monday by the La Porte City Council means revenue on top of the projected tens of millions of dollars in property tax dollars to be collected annually from Microsoft by the city and schools on the first data center that just recently started going up in the area of Boyd Boulevard and U.S. 35.

The first data center costing about $1 billion will consist of six buildings on 500 acres of what used to be farmland previously annexed into the city adjacent to the expansion site.

The second data center will have 11 structures.

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody urged the city council to approve the annexation in what he felt was an easy decision that will benefit current residents and future generations.

"The resources that will come from this caliber of investment are unlike anything we've ever seen in the history of the city of La Porte," he said.

The annexation was needed to install water and sewer lines to the site because of an ordinance prohibiting municipal utilities from being extended outside the city limits.

In addition to the property tax revenue, the city will also be paid $17 million for selling Microsoft 113 acres of land now used for spreading solids from the nearby municipal wastewater treatment plant.

The city-owned land is included in the farmland Microsoft is purchasing at a similar price of $145,000 per acre, said Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership.

"That land is kind of in the center of it," he said.

Cook said the one-time payment for the land will be made to the city once the sale closes, which should be toward July.

The exact amount of money to be collected annually won't be known until the development is ready to be assessed based on its taxable value beginning in 2028.

Officials believe the new funding total in one year will easily surpass the city's annual budget of about $30 million.

No decisions have been made on how those dollars will be spent but the mayor and other decision makers have talked about investing in roads, sidewalks and other upgrades to the city's aging infrastructure.

"I think you are going to see roads that are paved. Water and wastewater infrastructure that's redone. Police. Fire. I think there's just all kinds of different impacts it will make," Cook said.

Spencer Summers was among the La Porte residents speaking in favor of the annexation.

"Through a partnership with Microsoft, our city can return to being a city of growth. A city our children want to be in and have an opportunity to thrive," he said.

The concerns expressed by opponents included noise.

Local officials say the noise level will be equivalent to the sound of a kitchen refrigerator running but that didn't convince some nearby residents like Eric Beal, who lives about a mile away from the data center site on 13th street.

"I broke my back to have a nice quiet life in La Porte and not have to deal with stuff like that," he said.

According to Microsoft representatives, water will be trucked in and used for cooling the data center servers.

The same water will continue being used until it's hauled away for proper disposal.

Cook said the new funding comes at a time when municipal revenues from statewide property tax reform are in decline.

The school corporation was on the verge of seeking a property tax increase through a referendum, but that idea has since been scrapped due to the new incoming revenue source.

"We are the envy of everybody else in the state because most of the other communities in the state are looking at referendums," said La Porte School Board President Ryan Seaburg.

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Raiders swept by Bobcats in girls softball

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders were swept in a doubleheader on Monday, May 18, at home against Brandywine in girls' high school softball.

In the first game, the Raiders gave up four runs in the first inning but stayed within striking distance until the Bobcats scored five runs in the sixth inning.

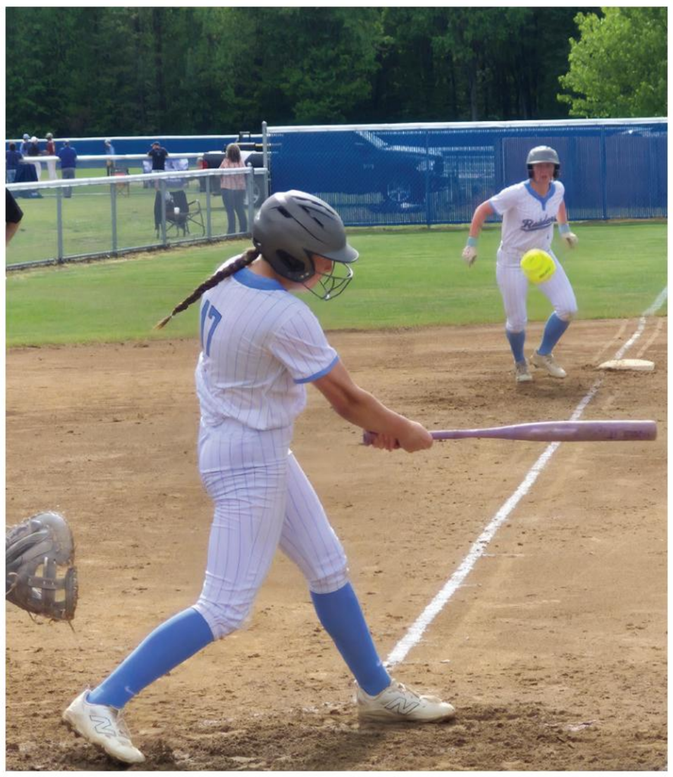
The final score was 11-2.

The Raiders showing fight scored both of their runs in the sixth inning.

Freshman Adelyn Russell and sophomore Rylee Rudolph led off the inning with singles, but the promising start quickly turned sour when junior Johnna Rochefort, one of the best hitters on the team, lined out to the second baseman.

The second baseman quickly threw the ball to the shortstop, who tagged second base before Russell after running toward third base could get back to the bag for the second out.

Rudolph scored when the next hitter, slugger Addison Lynch, a sophomore, hit a stand up triple to the center field fence.



Freshman Ella Lijewski drove in Lynch with a sharp single to left field before the final batter struck out.

Lynch also had a triple on a scorching line drive that rolled to the right center field fence to lead off the second inning but didn't score when the next three hitters made outs.

Lijewski, the starting pitcher, went the distance from the mound.

Head Coach Erick Rochefort complimented his players for their effort against a very talented squad and staying in the game after the Bobcat's big first inning.

"They never gave up. I'm very proud of them," he said.

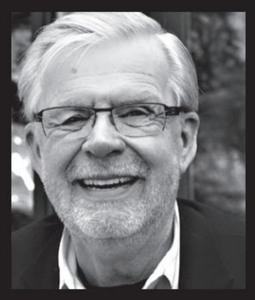
The Raiders lost the second game 12-0.

Rochefort stroked a double while junior Laney Strother and senior Brianna Taylor each had two singles.

The Raiders fell to 16-14 on the season.

They play at Michigan Lutheran on Thursday for the conference title.

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

The Crosstown Classic took place over the weekend, and boy, it sure was fun.

Baseball has made a lot of changes over the last few decades, some I liked and some I hated, but so far my favorite change has been inter league play.

Growing up in Chicago gave me the opportunity to see the great players in both leagues but if you grew up in Detroit, St. Louis, or any city that just had one team, and you loved baseball, you were deprived of seeing half of the great players.

Tiger fans never saw Willie Mays, Roberto Clemente, or Ernie Banks and Cardinal fans missed out on Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth, and Ted Williams. In 1997 inter league games began and the sport and its fans are better off.

Besides fans having the opportunity to see teams from the other league, inter league play had the added benefit of increasing natural geographical rivalries for the players and the fans. I saw at least two clips of fighting in the stands at Sox park.

While I wish that people could control their emotions a bit better, the fighting did illustrate the passion that fans still have for their team. I must admit that I was a little perplexed that both fights I saw had women in the center of the action. Harry Caray always used to say that you can't beat fun at the old ballpark and after watching the Cubs and Sox battle, it would be difficult to argue with that.

Of course, both teams playing winning baseball added to the intrigue. The White Sox are in second place in their division, only one game behind the league leading Cleveland Guardians and the Cubs are in first place, a game and a half ahead of the Milwaukee Brewers and St. Louis Cardinals.

It feels like it's been a long, long time since both teams have been playing so well. Neither team is perfect, but that's part of the beauty of baseball. If you get hot at the right time, anything can happen. Since inter league play began, the Cubs have won 78 times and the Sox won 77. You can't get any closer than that.

The Cubs need to get and keep their pitching staff healthy and the Sox need to have their young players continue to improve. The season is just over one quarter finished and the playoffs are far, far away, but it's nice to dream about a city series after the Sox beat the Yankees and the Cubs beat the Dodgers. If those scenarios played out, the impending strike wouldn't bother me at all.

So, buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack and settle back to enjoy summer. Let's hope that both Chicago teams (and the Tigers) continue to play good baseball and are still in contention when the regular season comes to an end. I hope everyone has a safe and happy Memorial Day.

Chick Moorman said, "Doing what is right, fair and honorable is more important than winning or losing."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Learn to be silent. Let your quiet mind listen and absorb. — *Pythagoras*

Highly ranked Bobcats too much for Raiders in baseball

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders showed early promise against one of the best high school baseball teams in the state but lost both games of a doubleheader at home on Monday, May 18.

The final scores were 13-2 and 10-0 at River Valley High School.

In the first game, Brandywine scored one run in the first inning but the Raiders during the bottom of the inning tied the game on a bunt single from junior Lucas Thun that scored sophomore Colten Lijewski.

Starting pitcher Drew Bowen after starting to be hit hard was taken out of the game with one out in the second inning.

Four Bobcats crossed the plate before senior relief pitcher, Ryan Ender, completed the inning.

The Raiders scored again in the second inning when sophomore Aiden Miller crossed the plate on a wild pitch.

Brandywine scored four more runs off Ender in the third inning before he was replaced with one out by senior Nick Wolfe, who quickly gave up a run scoring single to right field.

Wolfe allowed another run to score on a wild pitch before retiring the next two hitters.

He gave up just one more run in his final two innings on the mound against Brandywine, which came in ranked No. 6 statewide in Division 3.

Head Coach Bryan McCarty told his batters between games not to get discouraged because they hit a lot of balls hard just mostly at the defenders.

"Don't change anything. They'll start to fall," he said.

Students, staff throw ‘Carnival for a Cure’ at 5K

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

As was tradition, members of the Bison community bid farewell to dedicated district leaders at this year’s “Carnival for a Cure”-themed 5K at the New Buffalo Middle/High School multiplex Tuesday, May 19.

This year, three retirees were honored by students and staff: New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley, New Buffalo Middle School Teacher Jennifer Bauer and New Buffalo Elementary School Second Grade Teacher Kim Magro.

A New Buffalo High School alumnus, student Nicole Semunchuk said that Ripley has taught at the high school for 17 years and been principal for four.

“In the four years I’ve gotten to know Mrs. Ripley, I admire her positivity and the fact that she tries to put a smile on every kid’s face, which shows us how much she cares….You have made a big impact on everyone here, not just with your work but with your spirit. Your hard work and contributions to New Buffalo Area Schools and our community will not go unnoticed and you will be missed,” she said.

Students Emma Behzadi and Amaya Vosberg said their favorite part of Magro is “how kind she is. She always makes us feel like we are really important to her, even when we just see her in the hallways now.”

They reminisced about her “Jitter Juice,” which is lemonade, sparkling water and sprinkles, but “it was more like magic to us” and drawing a community on a giant piece of paper.

“No matter where we go or what we do, we will always remember Mrs. Magro – she made a difference in our lives,” Behzadi and Vosberg said.

Senior Lucas Forker said Bauer “inspired me to be the best version of myself.”

He recalled when she had cancer when he was a student and she played Amy Grant’s song, “Don’t Give Up on Me” – she certainly wasn’t going to give up on her students when she was tired and not feeling her best.”

“She made a promise to stay teaching at New Buffalo utill I graduate - she kept her promise and now, we’ll be leaving together,” Forker said.

The district started the 5K 10 years ago to support fourth grade teacher Marie Churchill, who at the time was battling cancer. Now, 10 years later, she’s cancer-free.

“Ms. Churchill shares that this milestone fills her with gratitude and joy. She continues to visit Mayo Clinic each summer for a routine checkups, a place that represents resilience and hope in her journey,” middle school teacher Lisa Knoll said of Churchill, who has since retired.

Proceeds from T-shirt sales, concessions, snack sales and advisory Coins for Caner went to Berrien County Cancer Service, Inc.

In addition to the 5K race and walk, students enjoyed ice cream from Tina Brewster and Nancy’s, cookies, bananas and oranges from Berrien County Cancer Service, and could also play games like cornhole, spike ball and football.

The event was organized by the New Buffalo middle and High School and elementary school student senates, along with middle and high school SADD.

Karen Muckey-Martinez and the elementary senate designed the T-shirts and Danika Piotrowski printed them and Vance Price did the course setup and timing.

Students hula hoop as part of the various activities

Students experiment with bubble solution

Students are off to the races at the annual 5K

Tracy Ripley, Jennifer Bauer and Kim Magro are honored for their service to the district

Students scoop ice cream to hungry runners and walkers

Students play a variety of games on the multiplex

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- Knitters & Crocheters Day Camp at Goods & Heroes Yarn Haus in Three Oaks 11am-6pm [Tickets]
- SideYard Summer Kick-Off Party in Sawyer 4pm [Free]
- Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran presents Lincoln at the New Buffalo Township Library 5:30pm [Free]
- Jazz Night at Shoreline Brewery in Michigan City 7pm [Free]

MAY 19, TUESDAY:

- Capone's Vault Book Talk with Author William Hazelgrove at the Bridgman Public Library 6pm [Free]

MAY 21, THURSDAY:

- Acrylic Palm Tree Art Class at JLN Studio in Stevensville 6-8:30pm [Tickets]
- PechaKucha Volume 36 at Shadowland Ballroom in St. Joseph 7pm [Tickets]

MAY 22, FRIDAY:

- Terrapin Flyer Live at the Lakefront in Michigan City 8pm [Tickets]

MAY 23-24, SATURDAY-SUNDAY:

- Memorial Weekend Wine & Art Festival at Lemon Creek Winery 12-6pm [Free]

MAY 23, SATURDAY:

- Live at the Pier featuring Paolo Apuli music at Round Barn Tasting Room in Union Pier 3-6pm [Free]
- Shanneen Live Music at Golden Muse Winery 5-8pm [Free]
- An Evening of Interactive Magic & Mystery at Solarium in Stevensville 8pm [Tickets]

MAY 24, SUNDAY:

- Sunday Funday featuring live Yacht Rock at St. Julian Winery in Union Pier 2-5pm [Free]
- Dylan Raymond Live Music at Solasta Winery 5pm [Free]

MAY 30, SATURDAY:

An Evening with Michael McDermott at The Acorn in Three Oaks 8pm [Tickets]

MAY 31, SUNDAY:

Janky-Limo Live Music at Shoreline Brewery in Michigan City 3-7pm [Cover Charge]

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

From the Hands of the Master... It was what I had been waiting for; what I had longed for – a television series that was all mine! Well, actually it was all Jean and Andy's. But I was in charge of it! Well, (again) I was in charge of the development and writing for it. I was to develop, write and create the series bible and write as many episodes of Lady Lovely Locks and the Pixietails as I wanted. And oh did I want!

I tore into my work, devouring everything Mattel and American Greetings had on Lady Lovely Locks and the Pixietails. The more I researched the concept, the more I fell in love with it. It was kind and gentle, yet filled with action and adventure...as well as female leads.

I totally immersed myself in writing the series bible. By week's end I had finished it, eager to move to scripting. But I put on the brakes, knowing I needed approvals on the series bible from American Greetings, Mattel and Lori, who was the series' script coordinator. As this was Creative, I also knew the bible would ordinarily go to Jean. But, curiously, I hadn't seen Jean in some time. I assumed he was either in Paris on business or in Tokyo working with KK C&D animation studio. In his absence, Lori told me she was passing the series bible along to Andy.

I figured Andy was just getting a courtesy copy since he had so many business matters he was dealing with and that he would give the bible a rubber stamp approval. The idea of Andy Heyward actually taking the time to go through my ninety-six page series bible and offer comments and criticism seemed highly unlikely to me.

Boy, was I ever wrong...

I knew Andy was a tremendously skilled businessman and studio executive, but until now I knew little about his creative background. If I had done my homework I would have learned DIC's Chairman of the Board was born into an entertainment industry family, and was destined for the biz and success in it.

Andy's father, writer/producer 'Deke' (no relationship to 'DIC') Heyward, enjoyed a forty-year career in the industry, writing and producing countless television series and films, including The Dick Clark Show, Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine, Wuthering Heights (!), and The Abominable Dr. Phibes. Deke was an executive at numerous studios, including Hanna Barbera, where Andy would work for a time.

Andy's association with Jean began with his creating the concept for Inspector Gadget, and the series itself with Jean Chalopin and Bruno Bianchi. Andy would say part of his inspiration for Inspector Gadget came from Hanna-Barbera's Scooby's All Star Laff-A-Lympics. That series' hero, The Blue Falcon needed the help of his bumbling robotic dog sidekick Dynomutt, who was always outfitted with a bunch of zany contraptions.

Still, until now I thought of Andy as only being involved with DIC's business affairs so it seemed odd to me that he was suddenly working on the minutiae of a series bible. As it turned out, he dissected my Lady Lovely Locks and the Pixietails series bible with the skill of a surgeon and stitched it back together with page after page of brilliant line-notes and incisive handwritten observations, enabling me to learn all I needed to know about the construction of a series bible.

I came to appreciate that the notes had come from the hands of a master...

HOROSCOPE

MAY 21-27, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The vibe radiating your way this week, is centered in communication. The issue is it's misfiring a little, and you are apt believe something false or think you have the facts, when you don't. Also, the rumor mill will be fresh with exciting tidbits but don't bite. Wait things out, before getting involved.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Staying focused and following through with the stated directions is needed this week. Unfortunately, the energy coming your way now, can make you very gullible. Making you vulnerable to scams, and the not so on up and up behavior, from peers. Keep very close track of your spending now.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Partners, whether romantic or business, could make you feel boxed in or that their influence is too dominating. There may have been situations where you could have set up better boundaries in the past, that will come up again. This is the time to reevaluate where you stand on things.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Maintain your determination and stay the course. Don't fall prey to self-delusion or that past misunderstandings cannot be overcome. This is the time to give people a break and not get caught up in debates or overanalyzing things. Brush yourself off and get back in the game.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There will be a change in trajectory this week and your relationships will undergo a definite change in course. People or societal issues will trigger and connect with some of your own personal concerns. Which may give you the chance to make amends, or have a sudden change of heart.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Now is the time to work on your routine and streamline the procedures you perform. This is not the time to assume you know how things will operate on a daily basis, until you actually start doing things. Don't get locked into a system, until you try things out in real time and on a real job.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

The vibe coming in this week will affect your work and daily routine sectors. Making the environment at work feel off course or that the day isn't proceeding in a timely and productive manner. Also, something that you had your heart set on, may not turn out to be all you had hoped for.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The energy this week has the ability to unearth obstacles and sometimes they can end up in the path. This is the time to make moves that may be a little unusual or not the recommended course of action but that can get you through difficulties, without too many complications.

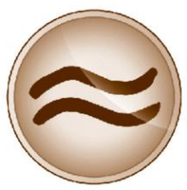
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You could be hit with some relationship road blocks, this week. Whether they are about personal space, division of household labor or emotional availability, you are going to have to communicate. There may be old issues that need to be unearthed and new boundaries built.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

It's important you remain consistent and follow through with plans, even if communications get screwy. You may not be able to complete the work in the timeframe you had envisioned, due to forces beyond your control, but you will get it done. Better late than never. So, stay on it.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



There is an air of disillusionment or the feeling that things aren't as fulfilling as you had expected, settling in this week. The important thing is that even if projects or ideas don't pan out the first time, you have the experience of doing it wrong, and can see where you need to make changes.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The breakthrough will come when you withdraw and take some time to think things through for yourself. If conversation become heated or you start to feel confused about a key issue, back off. Don't let others run roughshod over you. Move to higher ground, you don't get drowned out.

Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it. —Rene Descartes

Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it. — *Rene Descartes*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		7			5	4		
2				9				
	4	8		2				
			2	5			6	
9		3					7	
		4		6			9	
4				8				
	5	6					4	
	8		9	3				

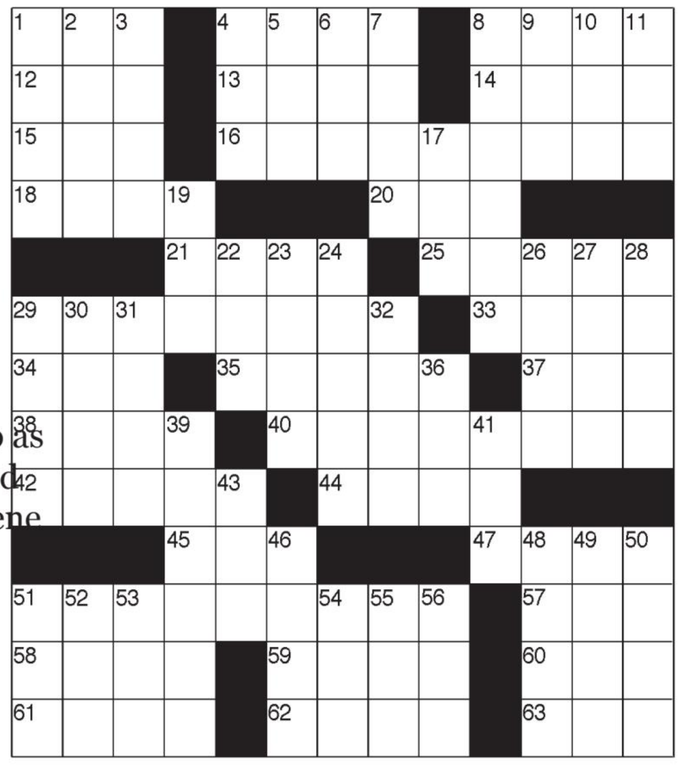
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Bachelor of Hebrew Letters (abbr.)
4 Small lake
8 Down (pref.)
12 Poem
13 Mrs. (Ger.)
14 Slugger's stats
15 Doing business as (abbr.)
16 Cavalier
18 Gumbo
20 Yeomanry (abbr.)
21 Abundant supply
25 Garishness
29 College organization
33 In another manner
34 Former name of Tokyo
35 Remains of what is burned
37 A (Ger.)
38 Back
40 Wanted (2 words)
42 Balinese spear dance
44 Girlfriend of Alley Oop
45 Electroencephalogram (abbr.)
47 Fine
51 At the same time
57 Sleep state (abbr.)
58 World's first auto in l885
59 Heb. measure
60 Lyric poem
61 Caucasian language
62 Muslim ship's captain
63 New (Ger.)

DOWN

1 Seaport in W. Norway
2 Handbook (abbr.)
3 Shakespearean king
4 Pfennig (abbr.)
5 Metal rock
6 Var. of Anna
7 Tariff
8 Louisiana people
9 Antiballistic missile (abbr.)
10 Aunt (Sp.)
11 Army service number (abbr.)
17 Side of triangle
19 Love (Lat.)
22 Individual retirement acct. (abbr.)
23 Unless, in law
24 People (pref.)
26 Lower intestine
27 Chin. dynasty
28 Parsi scripture
29 Slav
30 Concert halls
31 Cry loudly
32 Old name of Tokyo
36 Selected (abbr.)
39 Wagner opera
41 Bub
43 Seed
46 Jordan valley
48 Hard
49 Give
50 Flightless bird
51 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)
52 Shak. contraction
53 As well as
54 Girl's name
55 Decoration
56 Bitter vetch



Growers tallying frost damage to fruit crop in Michigan

BY STAN MADDUX

Michigan will not have a full crop of fruit this year due to frost, but the extent of the damage won't be fully known until early June.

Dan Dick, a tree fruit specialist with the Michigan State University extension office in Benton Harbor, said his level of concern about the crop damage is moderate.

The damage, so far, appears to be sporadic in all of the primary fruit growing regions of the state close to the entire Lake Michigan shoreline where the water warmer than chilly night air in early spring helps prevent frost.

"Nobody has a total crop loss. Evaluations over the next few weeks are going to tell us more as the fruit are setting past bloom," he said.

Nikki Rothwell, a tree fruit specialist at the MSU extension office in Traverse City, said she has spotted frost damage in tart cherries ranging from 20 percent to over 50 percent of the crop in orchards close to her in the northwest part of the state.

However, she believes some of the less damaged tart and sweet cherries will survive.

Rothwell said crop losses related to frost could also be reduced if there's a good pollination season to help cherry trees with their production.

She said there hasn't been much pollinating in the Traverse City area recently because of a stretch of 40-degree temperatures keeping the bees from becoming active.

"I'm still remaining optimistic that we'll have a cherry crop up here," she said.

The Traverse City area is where most of the cherries are produced in the state that provides nearly 75 percent of the nation's tart cherries, according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Michigan ranks fourth in sweet cherry production.

Dick said the frost damage to plums, peaches and apricots is similar to the degree spotted, so far, in cherries.

The apple crop was also damaged but not as much since apple trees can better withstand frost.

The state also ranks second in apple production.

Damage occurs when frost after fruit trees have bloomed develops on the small fruit exposed from no longer having a protective organic cover.

Over time, dead fruit will fall off the trees while injured fruit will sometimes remain on the branches and recover but sometimes at a lower quality.

Dick did not want to predict what the crop losses will turn out to be since there's currently a lot of guess work involved.

"It's hard to tell right now because fruit can fall off as late as June," he said.

Rothwell said growers even with 80-percent damage can still wind up with a crop worth harvesting, though, because the fruit remaining on the branches will grow larger since there's less competition for nutrients from the trees.

Most of the damage appears to be the lower lying areas in orchards where the coldest air at night sinks and settles on the fruit.

Damage in elevated areas like hillsides where wind can help keep the air a bit warmer and frost from settling on the fruit appears to be much less.

Rothwell said one thing that has her worried is frost developed again twice in recent days and reports of damaged fruit continuing to fall to the ground keep coming in from several major growers in her part of the state.

"The verdict is still out on where we are. I think we're just going to have to wait and see," she said.

Pat and Ellie Mullins (center) cut the ribbon on their expanded establishment

Guests view the variety of wines in the back room

Ribbon cut on P. + E Bottle Shop's expansion

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Thanks to P. + E. Bottle Shop's recent expansion, guests can enjoy more of the specialty wine shop's carefully curated selection of old- and new-world wines, hard ciders, and craft beers, as well as some provisions, in Three Oaks.

The shop has now expanded into the space that formerly occupied Patellie's, which closed last December, with its main entrance now welcoming guests directly from the village's downtown district at 28 North Elm Street.

Ellie Mullins, who co-owns it with her husband, Pat, said that the expansion is a result of the couple's continued evolution of business ventures in the area. They opened Local, a shop that specialized in humanely and sustainable raised meats and produce from local farms, in New Buffalo in 2011. After closing that in the fall of 2017, they opened their pizzeria, Patellie's, later that year. Next door, they opened P. + E. Bottle Shop, in 2018.

"We felt like this was something we could grow old with," Ellie said of the expansion at a Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting Saturday, May 16.

The shop now features a provisions kitchen offering a variety of charcuterie, cheeses, accoutrements, and house-made specialties.

"Delicious food to go with wine, so from things that are ready to eat to things you can take home and prepare" is what Ellie said is what's sold there. Products include a variety of meats, such as Tuscan-style salami and summer sausage; marinated olives and duck rillette; a variety of cheeses, such as cheddar cheese and Pimento cheese and gelato and Italian ice.

Ellie and Pat thanked their behind-the-scenes wine partners.

"We couldn't do it without all these guys coming in and introducing us to these wonderful things and teaching us and helping us grow – they're the ones you don't see but they work with us and they're as much a part of this business as we are," Pat said.

As of May 16, Pat said that they're still waiting on the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for them to be able to serve alcohol in the front space; however, he expected it to happen sometime within the next week or so.

He and Ellie thanked their loyal following, which has helped them grow through the years.

"We couldn't do this without everyone around us, with beautiful furniture and flowers and wine drinkers," Ellie said.

For more on P. + E. Bottle Shop, visit www.pebottleshop.com or their Facebook.

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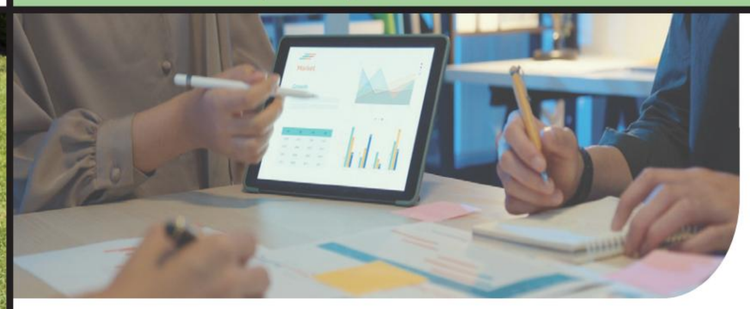

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OBITUARIES

Linda Sue Nekvasil
1944-2026

Linda Sue Nekvasil, 81, of Galien, died peacefully, Sunday, May 10, 2026, in the comfort of her family's' presence.

Her life began August 27,1944 in Niles, Michigan, the eldest of four children born to Daniel and Bonnie Grafford. She married Richard Allen Nekvasil January 8, 1966 in New Buffalo. After fifty-eight years of marriage, he preceded her in death.

Linda will be most remembered for her obsession with Elvis and love of shopping. Through her life she always enjoyed being around people and especially spending time with her large family. The strength and stubbornness she showed were an inspiration to everyone she met.

Linda will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by three daughters, Deb (Wendell) Ford of Michigan City, Indiana, Dawn (Lee) Schelling of Michigan City, Indiana, Tami Kendall of Galien, 12 grandchildren, three great grandchildren, one sister, Pam Fender of Grandville one brother, Dale Grafford of Michigan City, Indiana a special thanks to the care team at Gentiva Hospice and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved husband, two daughters Rebecca Nekvasil and Niky Janas, and one brother Daniel Grafford.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 12:00 noon until the time of service at 1:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.

Linda will be laid to rest beside her husband in Galien Township Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

FOOD IS YOUR FUEL

Food is our body's main source of energy. The same as fuel for your car. It is important what type of fuel you put into your vehicle for it to perform optimally. We are living bodies, requiring living food. This is food in its natural unaltered state. Think of a crisp apple, a handful of raw almonds, vibrant greens, or fresh berries. These foods are considered "living" because they still contain life form, vitamins, and vital enzymes.

When you consume living plants, you are consuming the sun's energy. You are putting life into your body. Your body knows exactly what to do with it. The active enzymes found in raw fruits and vegetables actually assist in the digestive process. This means your body spends less energy breaking the food down and receives an immediate, clean boost of stamina. We become the size we are meant to be.

When we eat processed dead foods, our bodies don't know what to do with it. The liver and stomach have to work overtime just to sift through the chemicals to find a shred of nutrition. The result? The notorious food coma. That heavy, sluggish feeling where your body diverts all its energy just to process.

When you eat processed dead foods, you notice it pretty quickly. Blood sugar plummets, fatigue, bloating, mood changes, and you just don't feel good. You want to sprawl out in front of the TV. Foods that are fried and piled high with cheese and processed sugars and flour cannot give us essential energy. These are dead foods. Processed food is very addicting. It tastes good, but just pleasing your taste buds can destroy your health. Food can Heal, or it can destroy a body with disease. We have the choice every time we put food into our mouth. Living Food, Living vibrant bodies. Dead food, well....

We should eat the rainbow of colors every day for vibrant health. This is where our cells get their energy. It is never too late to make better health choices.

If you are choosing to make change, then detoxing the cells is going to have to take place. This is not always easy. Keep focused on the end result. If you start eating a lot of living foods each day, then the detox is barely noticed. You are getting what you need.

Once the body begins to detox (a healing crisis) then your cells begin to cleanse and rebuild. We get new cells replacing old damaged cells every single day. If we give our bodies what it needs, and rid what is causing problems, we heal. The more we put healing foods into our bodies, the quicker we regenerate.

Ask yourself this with everything you eat or drink, "Is what I am about to put into my body going to build and heal my body, or is it going to break it down?" We make the final choice.

Get fruit every day, even if it is Just one apple! Your body will thank you.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

CROSSTREK

This kitten is Crosstrek, which is a fitting name for a lil guy that likes to run and climb. He is just over two months old, weights about three pounds, and is neutered. Crosstrek loves to curl up on laps and happily nap. He is cat- and child-friendly, and they "black panther" just wants all the love and training you can give him forever. Make Crosstrek part of your home today.

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LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
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Home, Garden and Builders Festival debuts in New Buffalo

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Visitors to and residents of New Buffalo could find a living business directory of where to go for their home improvement needs at the first Home, Garden and Builder Festival, which was on North Whittaker Street, Saturday, May 16.

While strolling downtown New Buffalo, festivalgoers could interact with a variety of home improvement specialists, custom builders, and interior designers alongside local artisans, landscapers, and garden experts.

The event was presented by Exit One Events, a 510 © (3) nonprofit organization.

For more on upcoming festivals this summer and fall, visit www.exitoneevents.com.

A display as part of one of the vendor booths

Maegan Heil of Platform Luxury interacts with a customer

Hank Wood tries his luck at a golf game in one of the vendor booths

Shannon Skryd and Garrett Steele test out some products at a vendor booth

Shane Franks and Jayden Myers pose by the large Epoxy Plus Flooring Solutions sign

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